



# City of Hampton, VA

## Meeting Minutes

### City Council

22 Lincoln Street  
Hampton, VA 23669  
[www.hampton.gov](http://www.hampton.gov)

*Linda Curtis*  
*W. H. "Billy" Hobbs, Jr.*  
*Will Moffett*  
*Chris Snead*  
*Christopher G. Stuart*  
*Donnie R. Tuck*  
*George E. Wallace, Mayor*

*Staff:*  
*Mary Bunting, City Manager*  
*Vanessa T. Valldejuli, City Attorney*  
*Katherine K. Glass, CMC, Clerk of Council*

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Wednesday, March 26, 2014

5:35 PM

Council Chambers, 8th Floor, City Hall

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#### **CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL**

#### **GEORGE E. WALLACE PRESIDED**

**PRESENT:** Linda Curtis, W. H. "Billy" Hobbs, Jr., Will Moffett, Chris Snead, Christopher G. Stuart, Donnie R. Tuck

#### **INVOCATION – VICE MAYOR LINDA CURTIS**

#### **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

#### **CEREMONIAL ITEMS - "Spotlight on Citizens" - Council Placemaking Awards**

Mayor Wallace welcomed everyone to the Spotlight on Citizens program and announced that tonight's program will feature the Council Placemaking Awards.

Mayor Wallace introduced Director of Federal Facilities Support Bruce Sturk to emcee the program. Mr. Sturk greeted those on the dais and reiterated that the program will highlight Council's Placemaking Awards. Mr. Sturk turned the program over to Mayor Wallace to give introductory remarks.

Mayor Wallace gave the following introductory remarks: As you may recall, in past years, the City held the Mayor's Civic Improvement Awards ceremony, which recognized organizations that made significant contributions to the visual appearance of Hampton. In an effort to revitalize the process and make it more innovative, we created a new award; "Placemaking". Placemaking is a multi-faceted approach to planning with a variety of definitions, but is generally recognized as building places for people that make a public space a living space. Placemaking is the process of adding value and meaning to the public realm through community based revitalization projects rooted in local values, history, cultures, and the natural environment. Placemaking instills civic pride, catalyzes economic development and nurtures an authentic sense of pride. Council's "Placemaking Awards" recognizes projects that improve the community through revitalization, blight reduction, historic preservation, sensitive infill, or appropriate and

high quality new construction that contribute to the creation of unique and memorable places helping develop Hampton's identity and character.

Mr. Sturk stated there were nine nominees in five different categories, with some being nominated in more than one category. He noted that these projects were completed in the 2013 calendar year and then listed the five specific categories for the Council's 2013 Placemaking Awards as: Commercial Renovation Award–Neighborhood Scale (less than 10,000 square feet), Design and Excellence Award, the Infill Project Award, the Third Place Award and the Placemaking Award.

Mr. Sturk asked the nominees to come forward following his remarks about their specific category. Mayor Wallace presented certificates and a top award to the recipients in each category.

### **Commercial Renovation Award – Neighborhood Scale**

Mr. Sturk explained that this award goes to the commercial renovation project that serves as the best example of a renovation of an existing commercial structure in terms of attention to design, materials, and sustainability.

The following nominees came forward as Mr. Sturk read the achievement of each nominee and the reason they were nominated:

- McDonald's – 1131 W. Mercury Boulevard (Coliseum Central), represented by John Smith

McDonald's underwent a complete interior and exterior renovation of their building to match the new corporate franchise model and aesthetics. The new prototype exterior employs greater attention to quality design and quality materials that not only improve the overall aesthetics of the site, but are also fitting for the high standards set and expected by the Coliseum Central Business Improvement District.

We also understand that this is the location where an employee won the 2013 Crew Person of the Year award, a national McDonald's employee award, which was featured in the Daily Press last month.

- The Point - 30 E Mellen Street (in Phoebus), represented by Cat Kane, Josh Stivers and Steve Jeffries

The Point, a restaurant in Phoebus, has revitalized both the interior and exterior of a vacant commercial space, formerly known as Paul's restaurant. Their farm to table menu is based on a sustainable approach to dining and agriculture. At The Point, they source most of their foods from local farms and producers. This project is demonstrative of a quality example of regeneration, appropriate urban design, and a positive contribution to the economic and social well-being of Phoebus and the greater Hampton community. The property underwent significant renovations and upgrades, including new signage, lighting, awnings, outdoor seating, and landscaping, as well as new electrical, mechanical, plumbing and HVAC systems. You will feel at home immediately with the warm glow of the glass lamps, the aromas from the kitchen and the relaxing decor.



- Red Lobster – 1046 W. Mercury Boulevard, no representative present

Red Lobster underwent a complete building interior and exterior renovation that provides greater attention to quality design and quality materials that not only improve the overall aesthetics of the site, but is also fitting for the high standards set and expected by the Coliseum Central Business Improvement District. Red Lobster is passionate about serving their guests great seafood.

Mayor Wallace presented the top award under this category to John Smith of McDonald's.

### **Design Excellence Award**

Mr. Sturk explained that this award goes to the project that best demonstrates the use of high quality design to improve a place or create excellent prospects for improvement, whether by improving the locally built environment, attracting investment, or raising the overall standard for design in the community.

The following nominees came forward as Mr. Sturk read the achievement of each nominee and the reason they were nominated:

- Zaxby's - 2201 Todds Lane, no representative present

Childhood pals Zach McLeroy and Tony Townley dreamed up Zaxby's on the basketball court. Zaxby's in Hampton opened in 2013, was built on an infill site, and is the first Zaxby's to open in Hampton. The building design and site layout represent a good project that maximized the development potential of the site. It is a fast, casual restaurant, which offers a unique design with high quality materials. The site was designed with a through road to vacant property located behind Zaxby's to allow for future development to occur without additional curb cuts to Todds Lane. The developer offset parking overages with pervious pavers.

- Patient First – 2304 West Mercury Boulevard, represented by Taylor Robertson and Cindy Sample

Located in the Todd Shopping Center where FYE was previously located, Patient First is open every day of the year to provide urgent medical care to patients. The site was designed to decrease the impervious cover by adding landscaped areas around the building and in the parking lot. The building is constructed of high quality materials and is aesthetically pleasant. The addition of Patient First provided a new medical facility in an area with many residents.

- Tysinger Audi – 2712 Magruder Boulevard, represented by Bob Rombs

Tysinger Audi is a new two story auto dealership built of glass and metal in a modern design. This development is a recognizable design being utilized by Audi internationally as a prestigious brand that could attract additional investment along the Magruder Boulevard corridor.

Mr. Sturk announced that the top award in this category goes to Zaxby's and will be given to them at a later time.

**Infill Project Award**

Mr. Sturk explained that the infill project serves as the best example of appropriate new development in a mature, developed area. These are examples of well-designed projects which use quality materials and are compatible with existing, surrounding development.

The following nominees came forward as Mr. Sturk read the achievement of each nominee and the reason they were nominated:

- HHHunt Homes - South 2nd Street, Mallory, Pembroke & Point Comfort, no representative present

Several homes have been developed by HHHunt Homes Hampton Roads, LLC in accordance with the Special Public Interest – Buckroe Bayfront District standards at the bay front. Collectively, these homes are shaping the Bayfront in accordance with the vision set forth by the Buckroe Masterplan, and more homes are currently under construction. They are single-family homes built with high quality materials, all subject to design review by City staff. The development has high visibility in Buckroe, adds to the population, contributes to street life and helps support a burgeoning commercial district.

- Zaxby's, was also nominated in this category – 2201 Todds Lane, no representative present

Mr. Sturk announced that the top award in this category goes to HHHunt Homes and will be given to them at a later time.

**'Third Place' Award**

Mr. Sturk noted that this award is unique in that it is called "Third Place"; however, it doesn't mean we are literally recognizing the third choice instead of first, but rather the concept of a 'third place' is one coined by sociologist Ray Oldenburg meaning that your home is typically your first place, your work is your second place, and your "third place" is a place people go where they know they will bump into friends without necessarily planning to meet them there. Sometimes this is a local barber shop, sometimes a coffee shop, and often a restaurant with good food and beverages.

Mr. Sturk explained that the Third Place project is one that becomes an anchor of community life and fosters and facilitates creative interaction within the community.

The following nominees came forward as Mr. Sturk read the achievement of each nominee and the reason they were nominated:

- The Barking Dog - 4330 Kecoughtan Road, represented by Gary McIntyre

A neighborhood-scale commercial renovation, The Barking Dog restaurant has utilized a vacant commercial space on Sunset Creek in Wythe to open a hot dog and burger joint with outdoor seating directly on the water. This project is a prime example of a 'third place' for its ability to bring the neighborhood together. The Barking Dog is a quaint location and regular meeting place for local residents and merchants.



- Venture Kitchen & Bar - 9 E. Queens Way (in Downtown Hampton), represented by Carlyle Bland & Christine Bauhof

Venture believes that sharing a meal is sharing of yourself. This neighborhood-scale commercial renovation, Venture, has revamped a restaurant space on East Queens Way, which has proven very popular since its opening. The project is an exemplary example of a 'third place' for its ability to bring together the neighborhood. Venture is a regular meeting place for local residents and merchants.

- The Point, also nominated in this category - 30 E. Mellen Street (in Phoebus), represented by Cat Kane, Josh Stivers and Steve Jeffries.

Mr. Sturk announced that the top award in this category goes to The Barking Dog represented by Gary McIntyre. Mayor Wallace presented the top award of this category to Mr. McIntyre.

### **Placemaking Award (Top Honor)**

Mr. Sturk explained that the Placemaking Award is awarded to the project that most clearly demonstrates the positive impact of planning, regeneration, urban design or economic development work on the physical or environmental quality of a place or places, as well as the economic and social well-being of a community.

Mr. Sturk noted that both nominees have been nominated in other categories.

- The Point - 30 E. Mellen Street (in Phoebus), represented by Cat Kane, Josh Stivers and Steve Jeffries.
- HHHunt Homes - South 2nd Street, Mallory, Pembroke & Point Comfort, no representative present.

Mr. Sturk announced that the top award in this category goes to The Point. Mayor Wallace presented the top award under this category to Cat Kane, Josh Stivers and Steve Jeffries.

Mr. Sturk congratulated and thanked all of the nominees and award winners. He then recognized the Placemaking Committee members by having them stand and thanked Mayor Wallace and the Councilmembers for the spotlight recognition.

Mr. Sturk noted that awardees may stay following the ceremony to be photographed if desired and then wished all in attendance a good evening.

A ten minute recess was taken prior to the Public Comment portion of the meeting which reconvened at 6:00 p.m.

### **PUBLIC COMMENT**

Mayor Wallace welcomed everyone to the Public Comment period, noted that three speakers signed up to speak and that they would be called to speak in the order of sign up.

Clerk of Council Katherine Glass read the protocol for the Public Comment period.

Mr. John Kruliss, 3631 Chesapeake Ave, greeted those on the dais and made the following statement: I decided to come today to pay my respects to Rudy Langford, a man who stood up here time after time after time. Those may not have been your favorite times (to see Rudy Langford coming your way). He was perhaps one of your biggest pains (you know where), but I want to say that there's not a person behind this desk or in this room or in all of Hampton who knew Rudy Langford who did not at some time disagree with him, maybe even violently. I have friends who start spitting fire when the name Rudy Langford would be mentioned who were just so angry with who he was and what he represented, but Rudy Langford needs to be recognized by you here for what he stood for. I hope that you will be missing him a great deal. I sincerely hope you will be missing him. I met Rudy Langford for the first time in Walmart at the produce section. I'd never met him before, but I recognized him as somebody who was up here a lot and I knew who he was just from a distance. I wanted to shake his hand and I told him I wanted to shake the hand of a righteous man. Many people have regrets, after somebody dies, that they never said what they wanted to say to the person. Every time I saw Rudy, I made sure that he knew where I was coming from and that I thought of him as a righteous man. As much as you may have disagreed with him or agreed with him on any occasion, there is something about Rudy that I hope you will really miss. There were many, many, many times. I'm sure you can think of them. I can think of many. I'm sure there are many that none of us will ever know about, when if Rudy didn't say something, nothing would have been said. If somebody did not come to somebody's defense because Rudy was there, nobody would have come to their defense. That is a real loss to the City. A real loss to the City Council who would really need that kind of perspective. I will miss Rudy. I hope you will miss Rudy. The only consolation I see in that is that Mr. Boone and Mr. Deerfield and Mr. Bassette and Mr. Ottofaro will continue to come up here and hold you accountable. I think that is a wonderful thing. I want to thank the Mayor for your participation in that. Mr. Stuart, thank you for remembering here in this Chamber. Most of all, thank you, Donnie, thank you very much for your participation. Thank you.

Mr. Eddie Deerfield, 1515 Garrow Circle, greeted those on the dais and made the following statement: I could go on about Rudy, too, if I wanted to, I was Executive Vice President (of the Coalition for Justice for Civil Rights). I just want to ask one question tonight that has been bothering me. On our budgets, every year, we turn around and we make a budget. Every year, we turn around and we have this balanced budget when we start. At the end of the year, as we went through the following year's budget, we always have a deficit. If we have a surplus at the end of the year, I would like to know what is done with that. Where does that money go? I thank you for your time.

Mayor Wallace asked City Manager Mary Bunting to direct those responses to Mr. Deerfield (at a later time).

Mr. Edwin Boone, 48 Snow Street, greeted those on the dais and made the following statement: It was mentioned about Rudy Langford. I met him about 10 or 15 years ago after I got back from California (I was born and raised here). If it wasn't for him standing up, it wouldn't have gotten spoken on. Also, I would like to mention about the balanced budget. Every year, at the beginning of the year, there is a balanced budget and at the end of the year, we are always millions in the hole. So, this is for the citizens of Hampton: I'm running for City Council. I'm running in the two year seat and I am to



replace the one that is left. So, all the time, there were six against one. Six Councilmembers plus the Mayor and (only) one that voted for the people. Since there are five seats available, and there are seven members, there are two already sitting there that are not going up for re-election. So, in that six, there was one that voted for the people consistently. I am 100% with his voting record. Now, there are two already there, so there are four seats available. What we need to do is get three more citizens to go with that one to make four. I'm one of that three that is necessary to get with that one so that there are two votes you have already. With (Frank) Ottofaro Jr. running for the Mayor, that is the third vote. So, we have three votes already in that perspective. We already have three. When they have two already there that was in lockstep with the six, all they have is two votes. They need two more. We have three votes; all we need is one more to turn this City around toward the citizens. We need somebody that is going to vote similar and that will singularly vote by himself with Donnie, and I am one of them. We have Ottofaro which I believe will also vote with Donnie. That is three. So, we need one more vote out of the five to make it a majority four votes and then we can turn this City around for the citizens of Hampton. Otherwise, if we come up and only one or two of us make it and we don't have a majority vote, it is business as usual. Thank you. Citizens, you have to get involved and you have to vote for the four that I suggested. Thank you.

Mayor Wallace noted that Mr. Boone was the last person who had signed up to speak and called for additional speakers from the audience. There was one additional speaker.

Mr. Samuel Jones, apologized for not arriving early enough to sign up to speak and noted that he is a resident of Tidemill Farms; however, did not give an address. Mr. Jones then made the following statement: I am here to speak on the situation of our entranceway sign. We had been in the process of replacing the old sign, and it has been a two year struggle trying to get a sign to replace the old one. We started this back in 2012, somewhere about this time of the year, trying to get our paperwork in and submitted so that we could get the grants to get the sign replaced. There were a couple of things that we had to do and it took us a little time to get it together, but the paperwork should have been submitted before October of 2012. At that time, the bids were in and they had selected a person. Something seemed to have gone quiet. It came to the attention of Councilman Tuck who happened to have attended one of our meetings and we just asked him to check on it. He had asked what was going on. I think it went back to the City Manager and they kind of lit some fires and things started going again. As I said, this was late 2012. We did hear from one of the Neighborhood Commission persons who got a little bit upset with me because we had gone that route and they said they were working on it, but somehow or another we didn't get that message. We are going into 2013. We had been told that there was a meeting that was told to the committee that was working on the sign, that we were going to be excluded from the process and that the Commission would take care of all of the details of the sign. They chose the same person that we had suggested. This was after they had said that this man was not qualified to do the work. I said – okay, you can choose whomever you are going to choose, but we would like to get the sign done. They ended up choosing the same person again. This man started the project somewhere about June of 2013 and he completed it in January which took a long time (to me) for him to put that sign up. Anyway, after he put it up, then all of a sudden, it seemed like the floodgates opened. Everything was wrong. They were talking about the delay in him getting the proper paperwork in, his right-of-way clearance, and fees and everything he had to do. We are

really upset with how the City handled this and that now the sign which was actually built – they tore it down. I am really upset about that. It doesn't look like we are going to even get a sign.

Mr. Jones' speaking time had expired. Mayor Wallace suggested he or a Tidemill Farms member contact the City Manager for an explanation regarding what transpired. Mr. Jones replied, okay.

Councilman Tuck noted that he has informed the City Manager, the Public Works Department and the Community Development Director about the issue and he believes it is now simply a matter of them getting back in contact with Mr. Jones and others in Tidemill Farms.

Mayor Wallace opened the floor for additional speakers from those in the audience. There were none.

Mayor Wallace opened the floor for comments from those on the dais.

Councilwoman Snead commented that while she believes in free speech, she also believes that citizens should speak about issues pertaining to the City when they come before Council. Specifically, the podium should not be used for campaigning purposes; otherwise, it crosses the line and gives some candidates an unfair advantage. She suggested Council review the Public Comment period protocol (if time does not allow now, then following the election) and put some rules in place. She added that she believes it is inappropriate for citizens to campaign when running for a Council seat.

Mayor Wallace requested a consensus by a nod of heads by Councilmembers that this topic will be discussed in the near future.

Councilman Stuart noted that his personal view is that citizens have three minutes to speak and as long as they are not cursing or making personal attacks, then they have the luxury of sounding like a genius or sounding like a fool or something in between. He noted Councilwoman Snead's sentiment is only one person's opinion and added that he understands the sensitivity with campaigning; however, when citizens speak about campaigning, they may win some votes, but also stand the chance of losing votes.

Councilwoman Snead agreed with Councilman Stuart; however, emphasized that at some point Council should review the Public Comment period protocol because while this is audience granted to the public, this arena should be reserved for discussing City business.

Mayor Wallace suggested Council discuss this at a subsequent time when they are deliberating on other processes and procedures in terms of our own rules and governance. He noted Council spoke about that at today's work session and there was a consensus to discuss this topic at a subsequent date.

Mayor Wallace called for additional speakers and/or comments or new business items for discussion from those on the dais. There being none, the meeting was adjourned at 6:18 p.m.



\_\_\_\_\_  
George E. Wallace  
Mayor

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Katherine K. Glass, CMC  
Clerk of Council

Date approved by Council \_\_\_\_\_